

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 NEA-06 OIC-02 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7056

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4699

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM/IO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC XF

SUBJ: TIMING OF SC ACTION ON UNDOF EXTENSION

1. FACT PALESTINE DEBATE IN GA NO LONGER SCHEDULED TO BEGIN BEFORE NOV 13 CAUSES POTENTIAL TIMING PROBLEM ON SC ACTION TO EXTEND. UNDOF. WE DO NOT WISH UNDOF DEBATE TO COMPLICATE GA PALESTINE DEBATE AND VICE VERSA. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID PLO PARTICIPATION IN SC DEBATE. IF AS IS CONCEIVABLE PALESTINE DEBATE LASTS MORE THAN TWO WEEKS, UNDOF DEBATE IN SC WOULD EITHER HAVE TO OVERLAP OR FACE SIGNIFICANT TIME PRESSURE. PRESENT MANDATE EXPIRES NOV 30.

2. ONE POSSIBILITY WORTH CONSIDERING WOULD BE TO INITIATE UNDOF CONSIDERATION (WITH CONSULTATIONS AND THEN, PRESUMABLY, FORMAL SC MEETINGS) THIS WEEK. SUCH ACTION WOULD, OF COURSE, BE DEPENDENT ON SECSTATE'S SCHEDULE AND WISHES. WE MIGHT THUS DISPOSE OF QUESTION BEFORE PLO LEADERS ARRIVE IN NEW YORK AND BEFORE FIFTH COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL ASPECTS TAKES PLACE. FOR BOTH THESE REASONS, OUR MOTIVES IN PRESSING FOR MEETING THIS FAR AHEAD OF DEADLINE WOULD PROBABLY BE SUSPECT. THERE COULD BE NO GUARANTEE THAT WE WOULD NOT PRECIPITATE JUST WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID. OTHERS

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MIGHT FIND IT EASY TO STRING OUT SC DEBATE PRECISELY

WITH A VIEW TO SETTING UP CROSSFIRE BETWEEN
SC AND GA PLENARY.

3. ON BALANCE, WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK SAFER COURSE
WOULD BE TO ASSUME PALESTINE DEBATE WILL BE WOUND UP BY NOV. 23
AND PLAN ON CONSULTATIONS BEGINNING AROUND NOV. 20
WITH FORMAL MEETING TO FOLLOW PROMPTLY. BEFORE ABANDONING
IDEA OF GOING AHEAD THIS WEEK, WE PLAN TO
CONSULT WITH BRITISH AND PERHAPS ONE OR TWO OTHERS ON
VERY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS RE THESE ALTERNATIVES.
BENNETT

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